

*State of*  
*California*

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY



# NEWS LETTER

Nov. & Dec. 1958  
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KEEP CALIFORNIA  
GREEN and GOLDEN



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS LETTER**


Published monthly in Sacramento for and by Division personnel. Its pages contain current facts, problems, and events relating to Forestry and to the experiences of Division personnel.


F. H. RAYMOND - STATE FORESTER

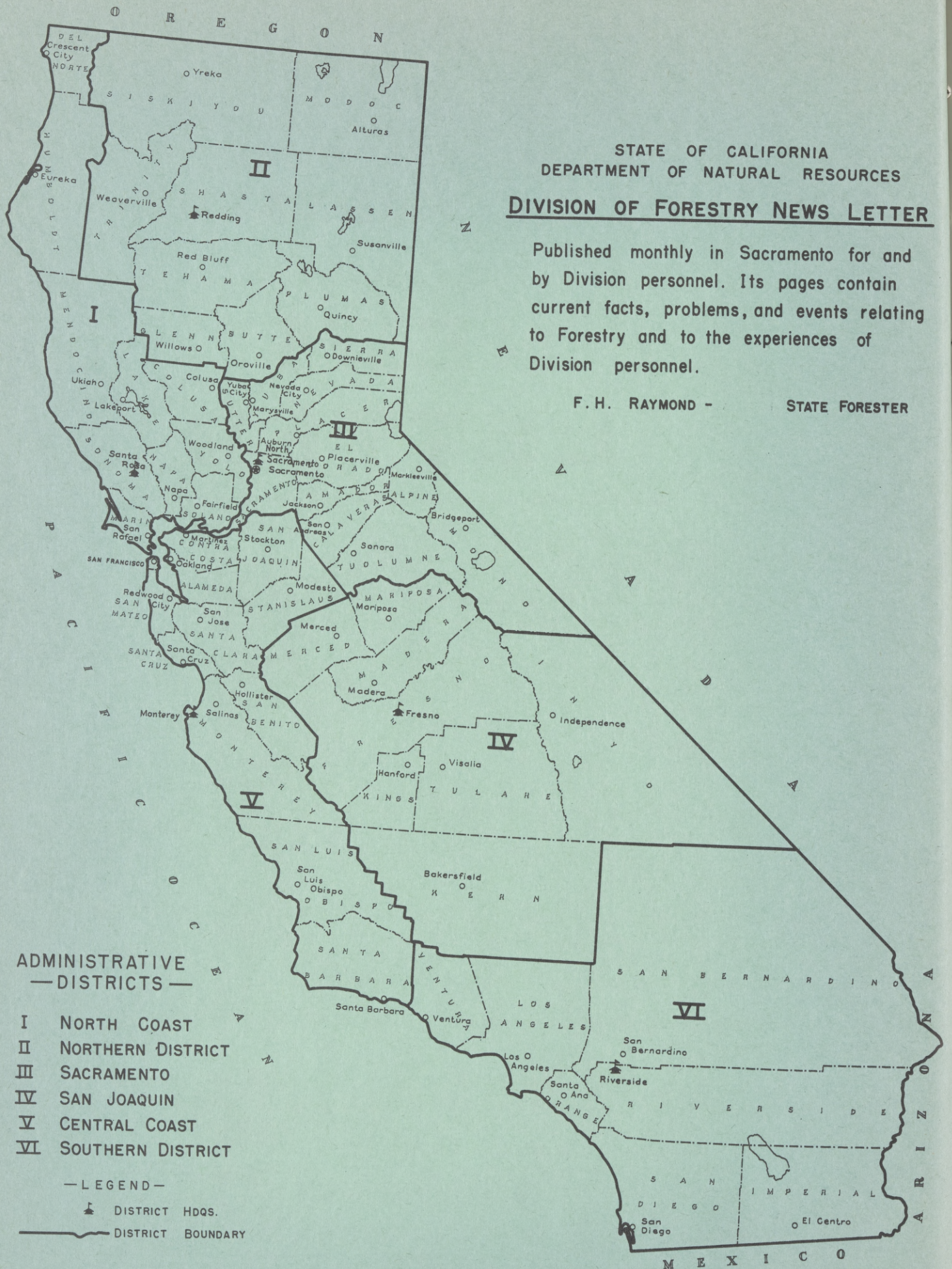
**ADMINISTRATIVE  
—DISTRICTS—**

- I NORTH COAST
- II NORTHERN DISTRICT
- III SACRAMENTO
- IV SAN JOAQUIN
- V CENTRAL COAST
- VI SOUTHERN DISTRICT

**—LEGEND—**

 DISTRICT HDQS.

 DISTRICT BOUNDARY





## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

FIRE SUPPRESSION: During October, the Division of Forestry experienced 327 forest fires and 105 non-forest fires on those lands of State responsibility. The forest fires burned 22,350 acres of timber, watershed, and range lands; and the non-forest fires cause \$221,313 damage to structures, vehicles, improvements, etc. Due to the unseasonably dry and warm weather, fire activity was generally above normal in most areas for this period.

Fire equipment and personnel from the Division of Forestry assisted Los Angeles and Ventura Counties with several of their fires. On one of the Los Angeles County fires, two bulldozer operators were badly burned.

FOREST FIRE RESEARCH: During October, the operational procedures of the "Initial Attack Airtanker Program" were reviewed. All movie film and written reports on the aerial drops are now being reviewed, and the data assembled in a manner which will permit an evaluation by statistical analysis.

A joint experimental project is under way with the United States Marine Corps, to determine the effectiveness of large helicopters for direct attack on forest fires.

## FIRE PROTECTION BY CONTRACT

The Division of Forestry is now providing the fire protection for the facilities at the Squaw Valley Olympic Games site.

The State Forester was represented in Santa Barbara at a fire prevention meeting conducted by the northern and southern divisions of the California Fire Chiefs' Association.

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

At the present time, the Division of Forestry has received forty-two proposed Public Law 566 watershed management project applications that will involve an area in excess of three and a quarter million acres. Thirty-eight of these projects covering almost three million acres are apparently eligible for Federal assistance.

As of this time, fire protection studies have been completed on ten of the projects, and it has been determined that three of the ten will require additional fire protection for flood prevention. To date, one of the three has been approved by the Federal Government in Washington, D.C.

The State Forester was represented at four watershed management meetings during October.

The first was in regard to the scheduling of work to be accomplished on the Napa River Work Plan Investigation. Other agencies attending included the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the U. S. Forest Service, the State Division of Soil Conservation, and the Nolte Engineering Company.

The second was the monthly meeting of the State Soil Conservation Commission.



The third was in regard to the planning and investigation progress of the following proposed watershed projects:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Sonoma Creek                               | 6. Carnadero-Llagas |
| 2. Ulati Creek                                | 7. Bryant Canyon    |
| 3. San Antonio Creek                          | 8. Escondido        |
| 4. Upper Tehachapi Creek                      | 9. Napa River       |
| 5. Firebaugh-Los Banos<br>Drainage Enterprise |                     |

Other agencies represented included the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the U. S. Forest Service, and the State Division of Soil Conservation.

The fourth was the Assembly Interim Committee meeting regarding the proposal to establish a Regional Laboratory at Davis, California. The purpose of the laboratory would be to study the irrigation, drainage, and related soil problems of the western states, as part of an expanded national program for soil and water conservation research.

#### CIVIL DEFENSE

One hundred and four volunteer firemen in the mountain area of Madera County signed up as Civil Defense firemen.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States Forest Service bird-dog plane, a Beechcraft Bonanza, crashed while engaged in directing borate drop operations on the Silverado fire in Orange County. The pilot, Bill Archibald, and observer Milliken lost their lives.

#### FIRE PREVENTION

Fire prevention efforts of field personnel were increased wherever possible in observance of fire prevention week.

Assistance was given in planning and developing the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Memorial held October 31 at the University of Southern California.

#### FOREST PRACTICES

At its meeting in Sacramento on October 23, the Board of Forestry heard and discussed three special reports which it had requested from the Division. They included plans for a revised system of making annual reports on compliance with the Forest Practice Rules, classification of certain timberlands as non-operating areas, and procedures for making final forest practice inspections. Plans are to adopt the revised system of reporting on compliance during 1959. The matter of non-operating areas requires additional administrative and legal study, and later possibly some modification of the Administrative Code. Discussion with respect to final inspections pointed out practical and legal problems which affect action that the Division can take in concluding inspections for requirements of the Forest Practice Rules.

#### STATE FORESTS

A continuous forest inventory system has been formulated for the



Jackson State Forest after several months of study. Thirty of the 143 permanent plots planned for the Forest have been established. The data from these first 30 plots were analyzed to determine the most efficient size and shape plot to use. Considering accuracy, economy, and efficiency one-half acre plots have been chosen for the inventory of Jackson State Forest. Plot establishment work can now continue until all 143 plots are established. Remeasurement of the trees on the plots at intervals (5 to 10 years) will provide valuable information about changing forest conditions such as growth, mortality, stand structure, and total merchantable timber volume. The field data will be transferred to punch cards for electronic machine card processing using modern business methods rather than by laborious hand methods used for past inventories.

Treatments of some of the non-timber brush-covered areas of the Latour State Forest were continued this fall in an attempt to convert such areas to forest cover. Several treatments are being tried. Plots established in the brush have been cleared by mechanical methods, seeded using several known methods and planted with seedlings. An area which had previously been cleared and had grown back to brush before young trees could be successfully established was resprayed with a herbicide in preparation for additional planting and seeding. On the two plantations chemically treated 4,000 trees were planted and 4,000 seed spots are being sown. Rodents have been a decided factor in preventing the establishment of forest trees in this area. To assist in control of rodents the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was called on; traps were set out to obtain an estimate of the rodent population, and a plan of control has been undertaken. Information obtained from the results of these tests should have value in many areas of the State where there is a need for forest regeneration work.

#### SERVICE FORESTRY

A simple "Memorandum of Understanding" between Soil Conservation Districts and the Division has been prepared and distributed to field offices. This document outlines the responsibilities and procedures of Soil Conservation Districts and the Division in providing technical assistance to farm woodland owners. The memorandum is designed to encourage co-operation between Districts and the Division. It should help personnel of the two agencies become better acquainted and should result in better service to farm woodland owners. Many Soil Conservation Districts are being contacted to encourage them to sign the Memorandum.

The Small Woodlands Council, an organization of private and public foresters met in Berkeley October 14th. A representative of the State Forester and the Mendocino County Service Forester attended. The meeting included discussion of the proposed small woodland owner's meeting in Salem, Oregon; a report on forest research in California; and the management of Blodgett Forest by the University of California. The publication of the "Timber Tips" series was discussed. It was decided to revise "Markets for Woodland Products" as a co-operative project of the University of California Extension Service and the Division of Forestry.

#### PEST CONTROL

A co-operative research project studying dwarfmistletoe attacking red and white fir has been started on Latour State Forest in Shasta County. The Department of Plant Pathology of the University of California and the



Division are co-operating in this project. Four plots have been established as study areas on the Forest. The purpose of the project is to obtain basic information in red fir and white stands about the forms of dwarfmistletoe, their behavior, and rate of spread. Dwarfmistletoe is a parasite which attacks most conifers. The damage consists of killing tops and branches of trees and severe weakening of trees making them more susceptible to attack by other diseases and insects. Information gained from this project will be useful in the operation and management of Latour State Forest and other timber owners having similar problems with this parasite.

A training school conducted by the U. S. Forest Service on the control of porcupines was held in Alturas on October 28-30. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange ideas and practices on the control of porcupines causing widespread damage to small forest trees in the Sierras from Tulomne County northward. Forest damage has been increasing during the past few years. Personnel from the Division participated in this session. Other agencies which had representatives in attendance were the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Department of Fish and Game, University of California, and U. S. Bureau of Land Management. Last year some 6,000 porcupines were killed on control projects. The majority of these were killed in Modoc County. Poison salt blocks and hunting are used in the control of this animal. At the meeting it was pointed out that there is a need for more research to find possible economic biological control methods.

#### REFORESTATION

A field trip to appraise reforestation work in the southern and central pine regions of the Sierra Nevada was conducted by the Forest Service during the week of October 6th. A representative of the State Forester was invited to attend. Planting and seeding projects were observed on old and recent burns from the 1955 McGee burn in Tulare County to an old burn of undetermined age in El Dorado County. The outstanding feature of the work being done was the excellent results obtained where care was used in preparing the site before planting. By mechanically removing competing vegetation such as brush and grass, survival of ponderosa and Jeffrey pines amounted to more than 90 per cent in many areas. After the years of poor results in forest regeneration work in California, it is encouraging to see that it can be carried out successfully if sufficient effort is expended. Costs for planting projects, including site preparation, planting stock and planting ranged from about \$35.00 to \$125.00 per acre depending on the degree of difficulty in preparing and planting the site.

#### RANGE IMPROVEMENT

Range improvement technicians from all administrative Districts and Sacramento headquarters attended the annual meeting of the California Section, American Society of Range Management, in Redding on October 28 and 29, 1958.

Three of the Division of Forestry technicians presented papers at this meeting. Paul Furbush described the preliminary work that has been done in pelleting and feeding chaparral. Larry Richey discussed the land clearing methods used on the Backbone Range Study in Shasta County. James Davis discussed criteria for determining the success of emergency revegetation projects and outlined a method for estimating the potential erosion from these areas.



## EMERGENCY REVEGETATION

The Division of Forestry in co-operation with Los Angeles County seeded rye grass on 3,860 acres of private and 640 acres of State-owned watershed land burned in October's Monrovia Fire. The actual seeding at the rate of ten pounds of seed per acre was done with a Los Angeles County helicopter.

Planning is well advanced on two other revegetation projects in San Bernardino County and one in San Diego County.

## LEGISLATION

Upon request, a representative of the Division of Forestry participated in a meeting of the State Senate Fact-Finding Committee at Shasta Lake on October 3rd. It was held in conjunction with the Shasta County Economic Commission. The Division filed a statement with the Committee on protection and development of wildland resources. The subjects included fire protection, forestry work camps, forestry research, brush range improvement, soil-vegetation survey, reforestation, and development of wood industries in relation to protection of waters and taxation.

On October 8 and 9 the Division also attended a tour and meeting of the joint State Senate Committee on Economic Redevelopment of Cutover Timber Areas, Brush Areas, and Forest Practices. These events were held in Lassen County.

## RECREATION

The Division of Forestry has been requested to assist the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee in making a survey of potential recreation sites within its area of jurisdiction in Northern California. A meeting was held in Sacramento on October 15th between the staff of the Committee and staff and field representatives of the Division to develop plans to conduct the survey. Work by the Division will be completed by the end of the year. Forestry participates in the development of the Outdoor Recreation Plan in two other ways: The Board of Forestry is represented on the Advisory Group to the Committee and a member of the Sacramento staff serves on the Consulting Group to the Committee.

## ENGINEERING

The residence and garage at Squaw Valley Forest Fire Station in Fresno County have been completed. Work is progressing on the Del Puerto Forest Fire Station in Stanislaus County and the sewer system has been completed.

Equipment shelters have been completed at Elk Camp Forest Fire Station in Humboldt County, Wilbur Springs Forest Fire Station in Colusa County, and Gordon Valley Forest Fire Station in Napa County.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT FRESNO DISTRICT FAIR

A review of our accomplishments during the recent Fresno District Fair, prompts us to forward a resume of the activities and accomplishments for your information.

The Fair this year covered a period from October 2 through October 12. By percentage tallies a total of 105,000 persons visited our exhibit. Taking



the stand that we were not doing the job in a Fair exhibit by having persons in attendance standing around, we embarked upon and developed a Fire Prevention Salesmanship Contact Campaign. In other words, we felt that we must make contacts, talk with exhibit visitors, in order to actually sell Fire Prevention. Basically, this is the only reason for which we should be exhibiting at a Fair. As a result of this approach, 68,250 personal contacts were made. Each contact was in the form of selling one phase or another of Fire Prevention.

The exhibit itself centered around three Fire Prevention phases:

1. Consisted of a 37-foot outside circumference turntable divided into eight sections. Each section represented one phase of Fire Prevention. A story was told in each section by use of pictures and short descriptive signs.
2. Was based on children and parents earning an award for answering Fire Prevention questions. The award to the child was a "Sparky" or "Smokey" badge and to the parent was a handout, "Your Fire Safe Home."
3. The further development of our Fresno County Fire Services Junior Fire Department Program. Children were given their Manuals according to their age groups and upon completion were to return these Manuals to the nearest Mid Valley Fire District or California Division of Forestry Fire Station to receive their diplomas, membership cards, advancement cards, etc.

It is obvious from the above that personal contact were feasible with this type of approach to a Fair exhibit. We further point out that one fifteen-minute live radio broadcast was made from and of the booth, one five-minute live radio broadcast was made from and of the booth, one television short was made from and of the booth, one newspaper article built around a picture taken of the booth was published in the Fresno Bee along with three other articles highlighting our booth activities.

Thirty-eight contacts were made and commitments made by our personnel relative to the presenting of group programs.

The second phase of our participation in the Fresno District Fair was the providing of fire protection and the manning of fire protection equipment. By constant patrol by persons assigned to the District Fire House, we were able to keep the fire occurrence to a negligible minimum. We did have one fire call which consisted of call which consisted of wire insulation on the secondary transformer burning. This, of course, was handled quite easily.

As a part of this patrol, many hazards were found, such as faulty wiring, violating of smoking rules and regulations. However, we were able to satisfactorily have corrections made. Because of the location of the Fire House which we were manning, we were exposed to much public relation work. For example, assisting in the handling of lost children, answering general questions about the Fair itself, particularly the locations of buildings and exhibits. A minimum of 1600 such contacts were made (as it pertains to the Phase 2 part of our participation in the Fair program).



Phase three of our participation was our contribution and activity before a Grandstand audience as it pertained to the Farm Safety Program on the night of October 6th. 760 persons attended this program. Our fire safety part of the program was over a period of twenty odd minutes and consisted of demonstrations in the proper type of using fire extinguishers, proper using of electrical wires, the need and application of a burning permit.

Wm. Pennington, State Forest Ranger

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS WRITTEN TO DIVISION OF FORESTRY EMPLOYEES BY MR. HERMAN G. STARK, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY

"I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation and assistance you so generously gave us during the recent emergency which resulted in ward Isaac Turner's death.

"Your unselfish use of time, energy, and equipment assisted us in handling a difficult situation under trying circumstances."

This letter was written to Jack R. Wilcher, Jack Couste, John Lewis, and Larry Upton.

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CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT AND FORESTRY

The State Forester is especially pleased to report that the response from the Division exceeded his and the author's expectations in regard to interest in the forthcoming book, "California Government and Forestry," which is now two-thirds in type. Division requests for copies total 327 at the present time. A number of outsiders have responded to articles in the News Letter and the R5 "California Log" also. It is sincerely hoped that this enthusiasm will keep the printing cost of individual books down to our early prediction.

Raleigh A. Taylor, Fire Prevention Officer

LIBRARY EXHIBIT

The California Section of the State Library in Sacramento has on exhibition for several weeks to come two show cases of interest to forestersterns. One case contains nine sharp photographs showing the several steps in splitting sugar pine shakes. The photos were taken by a professional photographer for the Red River Lumber Company to be used by artist W. B. Laughead, who was then engaged in painting industry pictures for the company. The photos came into the possession of W. I. Hutchinson of Chico (California Heritage) who presented them to the library. Another exhibit shows 18 famous historic trees of California. Visitors to Sacramento are invited to view the display on the third floor of the Library.

LETTER TO STATE FOREST RANGER W. F. MANN FROM GEORGE B. FOREMAN, MANAGER, WILLITS DISTRICT, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN RAFAEL.

"The Fire Suppression Demonstration conducted by your personnel at Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Service Center, Willits, California, was very reverently received.

"Messers Ed Poe, Jack Brady, and Phil Brown were congratulated for a very successful, well planned and well conducted demonstration. Your men are well versed in their chosen profession, neat appearing and a definite asset to our



community.

"This lesson was well received by twenty members of this organization and undoubtedly it will be useful in the future.

"We wish to express again our thanks for your assistance in organizing this demonstration for us during National Fire Prevention Week."

#### KINGS COUNTY

Following a busy year here, Ranger and Mrs. C. E. Lindley took their trailer and fishing poles and headed north for the remainder of their vacation.

The frost is on the pumpkin a bit prematurely. Our chrysanthemums were hard hit.

Our fire truck driver wives are busy selecting paint colors for redecorating their residences through our major building repairs program.

Marie Logan, former First Lady in the office, is helping out while Florence, Girl Friday, is unable to type. Broke her finger in the car door.

Assistant Ranger N. O. Stephens is on the go these days working up time sheets, developing projects and speaking before youth groups.

Our forest fire fighter Jack Bixler has brought with him an infectious smile and a terrific sense of humor. It's amazing to see how those two assets can get things done quickly.

We all hope the fire rash for this year is over.

Pappy (Kit Carson) Allen is back on duty following three months on sick leave.

The holiday season is looming ahead. It's nice to day dream about the glitter, gift buying, and family reunions.

Hope you are doing the same!

Florence P. Appell, Clerk-Dispatcher

#### DISTRICT VI

District VI would like to propose that the News Letter initiate a new section which might be entitled "Old-timers' Corner", "District VII", or perhaps some other appropriate title. The purpose of this section would be to print, from time to time, news items concerning the great number of former CDF employees, many of whom are now enjoying retirement.

When occasional contact with former employees is made, any information concerning their present-day activities should be submitted for presentation in the News Letter.

For any example, we recently bumped into Gus Weber, who currently works for the California Institute of Technology at the Palomar Mountain Observatory.



Gus, many year ago, worked side by side with Bill Mann, Truman Wolland, Dick Groninger, and Luther Gordon. Those of you who are acquainted with Gus will be happy to know he is in a very good state of health.

In connection with this subject, we believe that definite action should be taken to insure that all former employees who retire from the Division be assured of receiving a copy of each issue of the News Letter. For one, Luther Gordon, is most anxious to be included on the mailing list. Briefly canvassing several men in this District, we find that most everyone, after retirement, indicates they will be anxious to receive the News Letter.

We hope perhaps a program can be launched along these lines.

James K. Mace, Deputy State Forester

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your News Letter Editorial group takes this opportunity, on behalf of the State Forester and the Sacramento Office staff to extend to each and everyone of you and your families our most sincere wish that you will enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous Happy New Year.

#### PERSONNEL CHANGES

Listed below are the appointments and transfers which have been authorized and completed since the last News Letter was released:

Richard A. Groninger, Associate State Forest Ranger, transferred from the San Diego Ranger Unit to the Placer Ranger Unit, Squaw Valley Project, effective November 17, 1958

Orville A. Ingram, Assistant State Forest Ranger, transferred from the Fresno Ranger Unit to the Placer Ranger Unit, Squaw Valley Project, effective November 17, 1958

The following changes were made in the Sacramento Administrative office:

Margaret Warders transferred from the Division of Highways to the Engineering Section on December 2, 1958, to fill the delineator position vacated by Harry Crabb.

Eleanor Wein promoted to Senior Stenographer Clerk effective October 31, 1958, in the Engineering Section.

Leon Lefebvre, Training Officer, transferred to the State Personnel Board on October 30, 1958.



